

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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COME-00 OMB-01 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 PM-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 11097

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNDP, EAID

SUB: UNDP FINANCIAL CRISIS--IMPACT IN IVORY COAST

REF: STATE 283820

1. SUMMARY: IN CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION REFTEL WITH UNDP RESREP, HE RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR SEVERE IMPACT ON IVORY COAST IN UNDP FI NCIAL CIRISIS, COMBINED WITH UNFAVORABLE TREATMENT TO IVORY COAST BY UNDP SECRETARIAT AND GOVERNING COUNCIL. NET RESULT IS PROBABLY FORTY PERCENT REDUCTION IN IVORY COAST PROGRAM IN 1976 AND NO INCREASE IN 1977-81 OVER 1972-76 INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURES, DESPITE GOOD AGRUEMENTS ON WHY IVORY COAST DESERVES INCREASED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. WE BELIEVE USG SHOULD CONSIDER SUPPORTING HIGHER LEVEL FOR IVORY COAST IN VIEW GOIC VOTING RECORD AT 30TH UNGA.

2. AT REQUEST OF UNDP RESREP JEAN-CLAUDE PETITPIERRE, AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED UNDP FINANCIAL CRISIS AND ITS PARTICULAR IMPACT ON IVORY COAST JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS. PETITPIERRE'S UNDER- STANDINGOF SHORT-FALL WAS SLMOST IDENTICAL TO THAT CONTAINED REFTEL, EXCEPT THAT HE DID NOT REALIZE (FROM UN HEADQUARTERS' INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIM) THAT WE HAD NOT RPT NOT MADE FIRM PLEDGES FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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1974 AND 1975 PRIOR TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. HE VERY MUNH

TDAPPRXRIATED BRIEFING.

3. WITH REGARD TO IVORY COAST HE NOTED THAT UNDP FINANCIAL CRISIS AND HIGHER FIXED COSTS, TOGETHER WITH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL'S PRELIMINARY DECISION LAST YEAR TO KEEP INDICATIVE PLANNING FIGURE FOR IVORY COAST FOR 1977-81 AT SAME LEVEL AS PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS, NAMELY, \$15 MILLION, ARE HAVING CATASTROPHIC EFFECT ON SIZE OF PROGRAM HERE. THESE FACTORS ARE CAUSING A REDUCTION IN REAL TERMS OF MORE THAN FORTY PERCENT FOR CY 1976 IN COMPARISON WITH RECENT PAST, SHARPLY REDUCING UNDP PRESENCE IN IVORY COAST AND DESTROYING RESULTS OF FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM GOING BACK TO 1972 TO BUILD COHERENT EFFECTIVE EFFORT, COMBINING LARGE-SCALE LONG-TERM TRAINING PROGRAMS WITH ADVISORY ASSIGNMENTS AT HIGH GOVERNMENT LEVELS. HE POINTED OUT THAT IVORY COAST IS FIRST AFRICAN COUNTRY TO INTRODUCE COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS, NAMELY, CONTRIBUTION BY GOVERNMENT IN DOLLARS TO FINANCING OF INTERNATIONAL PROJECT COSTS. IVORY COAST IS ALSO ONE OF THIRTY-TWO COUNTRIES LISTED BY USGA AS MOST AFFECTED BY FOOD AND ENERGY CRISIS.

4. PETITPIERRE CONSIDERS INEQUITY EVEN GREATER SINCE IVORY COAST IS ONE OF ONLY FOUR COUNTRIES IN AFRICA WHOSE IPF FOR 1977-81 WILL BE AT SAME LEVEL AS FOR CURRENT PERIOD, WHEREAS OTHER THREE HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER MINERAL AND OIL RESOURCES, AND OTHER, RICHER COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ZAIRE AND NIGERIA, WILL BE ALLOTTED GREATLY INCREASED IPF'S, THUS CASTING DOUBT ON METHODOLOGY USED BY UNDP SECRETARIAT IN SUBMITTING PROPOSALS. FYI PETITPIERRE BELIEVES AFRICANS IN UNDP SECRETARIAT ARE "ANTI-IVORY COAST". BECAUSE OF ENVY OF ITS SUCCESS AND OPPOSITION TO ITS FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. END FYI.

5. ONE OTHER SET OF FACTS EMERGED AFTER UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL'S PRELIMINARY DECISION LAST YEAR, NAMELY, THE RESULTS OF IVORY COAST CENSUS WHICH, WHILE NOT PUBLISHED, CLEARLY INDICATE A 1975 POPULATION OF 6.7 MILLION, INSTEAD OF THE 5.2 MILLION USED BY UNDP SECRETARIAT IN PREPARING PROGRAM PROPOSALS.

6. PETITPIERRE IS ENCOURAGING GOIC TO MAKE SELF-INTEREST DEMARCHES TO GOVERNING COUNCIL PRIOR TO ITS SESSION BEGINNING
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JANUARY 15 AT WHICH PLANNING FIGURES ARE TO BE FINALIZED AND APPROVED.

7. IN MEANTIME, IMPACT FOR 1976 OF FINANCIAL CRISIS IS TO REDUCE PROGRAM LEVEL HERE FROM \$4-5 MILLION TO ABOUT \$2 MILLION.

8. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF GOIC VOTING RECORD AT 30TH UNGA, IS IT NOT POSSIBLE FOR U.S. DEL TO GOVERNING COUNCIL TO SUPPORT HIGHER

PLANNING FIGURE FOR IVORY COAST FOR 1977-81? QUITE APART FROM
PETITPIERRE'S ARGUMENTS ON EQUITY AND POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATORY
TREATMENT FROM WITHIN UNDP SECRETARIAT, IT WOULD APPEAR FROM
HERE TO BE IN USG'S INTEREST TO GO ON RECORD IN FAVOR OF
A HIGHER FIGURE FOR IVORY COAST.

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